NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

January 10, 1974

RESEARCH DIVISION

For a number of years, Lee Enari has tried unsuccessfully to establish contact with five or six botanical gardens in different geographical areas inside the People's Republic of China. Following President Nixon's trip to China in the spring of 1972, Lee tried again, hoping a change in political relations would open the gates of exchange.

Last month we were very glad to receive the first seed exchange list from Nanking Sun Yet-Sen Botanical Garden. Nanking is located in the central-eastern portion of China, about 300-400 miles off the Pacific Coast, with snow in the winter and a humid warm summer, very much like Washington D.C. area. They offered 295 species for seed exchange. We hope more contacts will be opened for us from other botanical gardens in mainland China.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Spring classes will begin in February. Early registration is advisable because all classes will be limited in size and will be filled on a first come first served basis. Schedules will be available around the end of next week.

Patricia Warren attended the 88th annual conference of the American Historical Association in San Francisco December 27 through the 30th.

Mr. Norman A. Morris of Los Angeles has donated a personal collection of 308 volumes to the Plant Science Library. The books, which reflect the donor's interest in landscape architecture, gardening and floral decoration, range in age from a book on orchid growing published in 1852 to a 1969 work on flower arrangement.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Progress is the order of the day for South Coast. The Board of Supervisors has given the architects the okay to revise construction plans for our administrative complex and has also approved the installation of the balance of grid markers, making the quadrant system of specimen location useful throughout the garden.

Henry Noerdlinger's retirement brought him many surprises. He was presented a Resolution of Appreciation by the Foundation members at their Christmas social. Although not surprises, the staff party for him at Shakey's Pizza Parlor, and the Department Christmas dinner honoring retirees, were also expressions of our appreciation for his contributions. And a "Year's End" tour scheduled by the Costa Verde District Garden Clubs turned out to be an ambush picnic on the lawn in Henry's honor.

The staff party on November 30 was put together by our social committee. Henry donated the beer, Gene Johnson donated his house and yard. With plenty of snacks, beer, games and good company, it was a real happening. The evening even turned into the announcement and informal reception for the surprise wedding of Charles Wenz (GMM) and Stavroula, a recent immigrant from Greece. Congratulations to the bride and groom, and best wishes for happiness together.

Energy news: Due to the energy crisis, the water pumps recirculating the stream are running one on and one off, alternating operation so as not to damage either pump from disuse. Excavation and other work necessary for running the underground electrical cable to the Youth Education buildings is underway. There will soon be electrical power in this area for future use, or disuse, as the case may be.

Unusual flowering plants this month include: Chorisia insignis, Magnolia sinensis, Strelitzia reginae, Hibiscus sinensis, Encelia californica, and these aloes--arborescens, aristata, ciliaris, ferox, Marlothii, and striata.

These birds were sighted in the garden during December: red-tailed hawk, orange-crowned warbler, house sparrow, American goldfinch, Savannah sparrow, loggerhead shrike, black phoebe, ring-necked pheasant, brown towhee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, spotted dove, scrub jay.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Ross Goodrich, one of the Arboretum Division's

oldest and most trusted employees, died on December 27. He will be missed by his ffiends and fellow workers.

Two new employees will be starting in mid-January. They are William Eitel who will be the Assistant Gardener at Lux, and Howdy Lee who will be the Assistant Nurseryman at the Arboretum.

Several employees have been promoted as of January 1, 1974. They are Calvin Allen who is now the Senior Equipment Maintenance Man, Earl Breitbarth who is a Senior General Maintenance Man, and Bruce Dustman who filled the Tree Trimmer vacancy.

DESCANSO GARDENS

The Christmas Decorations show at Descanso was a great success, attracting over 22,000 people during its nine-day run. It was the largest show in 18 years of exhibiting.

The gardens are coloring up fast with the camellias coming on strong in many areas throughout the forest. Also, there are many winter annuals coming into bloom such as the beds of calendulas and iceland poppies.

The annual rose-pruning demonstration will take place at Descanso this Saturday at 1 pm.

Jack Smith, the L. A. Times columnist, led a bird walk here December 9th. More than 300 people came out to see the gray grackle, the varied thrush, a long-eared owl - quite rare - and a flock of stellar blue jay.

Cold weather has hit Descanso; we have recorded a 27° , and a 32° morning. This is ideal weather for lilacs and tulips, so look for a good crop of flowers coming from these plants in late winter.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

In the past, our Department-wide public hours were 8 to 5 during periods of Standard Time and 8 to 5:30 during Daylight Saving Time. However, even though we are now operating on DST, we will continue our winter schedule of public hours - 8 to 5 pm.- until further notice.

We are pleased to announce that Eric Brooks, As Needed Tour Guide at South Coast for the past two years, has been appointed to the full-time tour guide position recently vacated by the retirement of Henry Noerdlinger.

We are happy to report that Head Tour Guide Dave Fields, ill for three weeks with hepatitis (the non-infectious type), is expected back next Monday.

Invitation. . .

The Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation invites the staff to our open house at the remodeled gatehouse and the new Information Center Tuesday, January 22, from 3 to 5 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Our Division would like to welcome its new Intermediate Steno, Barbara Litwin. Barbara is a former employee of DPSS Pasadena office and is replacing Jan Kohler who is now working in the Director's office.

The following is a list of holidays for 1974 which includes 2 election days for a total this year of 13 days:

January 1	New Year's Day
February 12	Lincoln's Birthday
February 18	Washington's Birthday
May 27	Memorial Day
June 4	Primary Election
July 4	Independence Day
September 2	Labor Day
September 9	Admissions Day
October 14	Columbus Day
November 5	General Election
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 28	Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas

ADDENDUM TO NEWSLETTER

A reminder that the Open-Enrollment period for life insurance is April 1 through April 19 only. During this period eligible employees can sign up regardless of their state of health or may change their current coverage. Please see Charleen for forms or questions.

The first payroll deduction for the life insurance will be June 10 payday for coverage beginning on July 1, 1974.

Thank you to those of the Arboretum staff who recently attended the brief film and meeting about AID. This program will be presented in the near future to those employees at both South Coast and Descanso Gardens. I want to say a special thanks to those employees who saw me after the AID meeting and signed up as new AID members.